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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/266,674	03/11/1999	DEREK JONATHAN HARPER	P-8609	6125

7590 04/14/2006

KELLEY PATRICK FITZGERALD
SHUMAKER & SIEFFERT P.A.
8425 SEASONS PARKWAY, SUITE 105
ST. PAUL, MN 55125

EXAMINER

SIRMONS, KEVIN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3767

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/266,674	HARPER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin C. Simons	3767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 35-37, 39 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 35-37, 39 and 40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-18, 35-37, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krueger et al U.S. Pat. NO. 5,772,625 in view of Kashmer et al U.S. Pat. No. 4,465,485 and in further view of Noiles U.S. Pat. No. 4,198,971 and/or Villari U.S. Pat. No. 4,366,836 and/or Norton U.S. Pat. No. 4,512,771 and/or Ruschke U.S. Pat. No. 4,521,212.

Krueger discloses a drip chamber system for draining cerebral spinal fluid from a brain comprising: a fluid tube (55); an outlet manifold (73) in fluid communication with the fluid tube, the outlet manifold having an outlet (distal end of 73); an inlet manifold in fluid communication with the fluid tube (59), the inlet manifold having an inlet and an outer surface (fig. 25), the inlet manifold having a vent (66), the inlet manifold having an inside surface (fig. 25); drainage bag (81) and stopcock (76). Krueger does not clearly disclose a filter made of a porous material wherein the pore size of the filter ranges from greater than .45 um to about 5.0 um and a vent that has a surface area ranging from about 0.8 cm² to about 5.0 cm². Additionally, it is not clear if Krueger discloses a porous material that is adhered to the inside surface of the inlet manifold using the techniques chosen from the group consisting of adhesive, heat staking, ultrasonic

welding or radio frequency welding. Kashmer discloses a filter made of a porous material wherein the pore size of the filter ranges from greater than .45 um to about .5 um.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the filter of Krueger with the filter as disclosed by Kashmer to entrap and prevent microorganisms which may be found in a hospital environment from contaminating the drip/drainage bag/chamber (col. 6, lines 41-50).

Noiles, Villari, Norton and Ruschke all disclose a porous material that is adhered to the inside surface of the inlet manifold using the techniques chosen from the group consisting of adhesive, heat staking, ultrasonic welding or radio frequency welding.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Krueger to have a porous material that is adhered to the inside surface of the inlet manifold as taught by Noiles, Villari, Norton and Ruschke for filtering particles.

Further, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to design a filter with a specific pore size of the filter greater than .45 um to about 5.0 um, since applicant has not disclosed that the aforementioned specification solves any stated problem in the art, provides an advantage or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with a filter with a pore size range from .22 um to 5.0 um. The aforementioned ranges are taken directly from applicant's specification. As to claim 37, (Kashmer discloses a hydrophobic vent having a hydrophobic porous material (40); see above rejections).

Additionally, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to vary the dimensions of the surface area of a vent ranging from about 0.8 cm² to about 5.0 cm², since applicant has not disclosed that the aforementioned specification solves any stated problem in the art, provides an advantage or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the surface area of vent as disclosed by Krueger.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant argument, it is the examiner's position that "adhered to" is broad and merely means to come or be in close contact with, which Noiles, Villari, Norton and Ruschke disclose and suggests this feature (see figures). Moreover, the Examiner clearly pointed out to the applicant the claimed invention by providing the prior art, which obviously anticipated the claimed invention (see filter in figures).

Note: The examiner attempted to contact applicant to resolve applicant's confusion on 4/13/06. However, applicant was unavailable for comment.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin C. Sirmons whose telephone number is 571-272-4965. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30-4:00 ALT FRI.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin C. Sirmons
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3767

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4/13/06

C.
KEVIN SIRMONS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Kevin C. Sirmons